

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:
an electrode with attached lead wire;
a conductor;
a source of alternating current; and
an electrode deployment detector configured for:
monitoring a magnitude of an electrical characteristic measured from an electrical circuit having from said source an alternating electric current path that includes said electrode with attached lead wire, said conductor, and a space or other electrical insulator intervening between said conductor and said electrode with attached lead wire, said conductor being disposed in proximity of said electrode with attached lead wire to create capacitance in said electrical circuit; and
identifying, based on said magnitude, an occurrence of at least one of handling of said electrode with attached lead wire and removing of said electrode with attached lead wire from a package containing said electrode with attached lead wire.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electrical circuit is configured so that said magnitude varies with said capacitance.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electrical circuit includes an integrator in series with said capacitance.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said electrical circuit further includes a rectifier for rectifying input voltage to the integrator.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said source periodically shifts between different frequencies of alternation.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said electrical circuit is configured so that said magnitude varies with said capacitance; and wherein said detector is configured to perform said identifying based on at least one of a sum and a difference between measurements of said magnitude that correspond to respective ones of said frequencies.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the alternating electric current path further includes another electrode and attached lead wire.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the alternating electric current path further comprises an electrically conductive medium disposed between the electrodes that provides a pathway for flow of electric current from one of the lead wires to the other by means of the electrodes and said medium.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein activation of a source for the electric current from one of the lead wires to the other and activation of said source of alternating current are alternated in a time division manner.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, comprising a defibrillator that is configured to issue a sequence of user prompts and to advance from a particular one of the user prompts to a next one of the user prompts upon said identifying.

11. A method comprising the steps of:
monitoring a magnitude of an electrical characteristic measured from an electrical circuit having from an alternating current source an alternating electric current path that includes an electrode with attached lead wire, a conductor, and a space or other electrical insulator intervening between said conductor and said electrode with attached lead wire, said conductor being disposed in proximity of said electrode with attached lead wire to create capacitance in said electrical circuit; and
identifying, based on said magnitude, an occurrence of at least one of handling of said electrode with attached lead wire and removing said electrode with attached lead wire from a package containing said electrode with attached lead wire.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said electrical circuit is configured so that said magnitude varies with said capacitance.
13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said electrical circuit includes an integrator in series with said capacitance.
14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said electrical circuit further includes a rectifier for rectifying input voltage to the integrator.
15. The method of claim 11, wherein said source periodically shifts between different frequencies of alternation.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said electrical circuit is configured so that said magnitude varies with said capacitance, and wherein the identifying step performs said identifying based on at least one of a sum and a difference between measurements of said magnitude that correspond to respective ones of said frequencies.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the alternating current path further includes another electrode and attached lead wire.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the alternating current path further comprises an electrically conductive medium disposed between the electrodes that provides a pathway for flow of electric current from one of the lead wires to the other by means of the electrodes and said medium.
19. The method of claim 8, wherein activation of a source for the electric current from one of the lead wires to the other and activation of said source of alternating current are alternated in a time division manner.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of issuing a sequence of user prompts, the issuing step including the step of advancing from a particular one of the user prompts to a next one of the user prompts upon said identifying.

21. An apparatus comprising:
an alternating current (AC) source;
an AC circuit powered by said source and having a complex-impedance-generating element with at least one electrode pad that is within said circuit, said element being expandable from a package containing said element to change a voltage drop across said element; and
an electrode deployment detector configured for monitoring a magnitude of an electrical characteristic measured from said circuit to identify, based on said magnitude, an occurrence of at least one of handling of said element and removing of said element from said package.